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**STOCKTON MAN ARRESTED IN INTERNATIONAL MONEY LAUNDERING CASE**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that yesterday a federal grand jury returned a three count indictment charging SEKHARITH BE, 53, of Stockton, and SEAKHOUNG NGO, 37, also of Stockton, with money laundering offenses relating to the movement of over \$21 million in cash from California and Texas to bank accounts in Cambodia.

SEKHARITH BE surrendered to U.S. Marshals in Sacramento late yesterday. SEAKHOUNG NGO was arrested last Friday at Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport in Texas.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorneys Benjamin B. Wagner and Courtney J. Linn, who are prosecuting the case, the indictment and a complaint in the case that was recently unsealed allege that SEKHARITH BE and SEAKHOUNG NGO coordinated the deposit of over \$21 million in cash into bank accounts they controlled between June 2000 and the present. In order to avoid the \$10,000 threshold that would trigger the filing of a Currency Transaction Report by the bank, and possible scrutiny by the government, they caused the deposits to be broken into hundreds of smaller deposits that were made at bank branches in Stockton, the Los Angeles area, and the Dallas area. Almost all of the funds were then wire transferred to an account at a bank in

Cambodia. SEKHARITH BE and SEAKHOUNG NGO are closely related to two defendants, brothers Kenny Kaing and Heng Kaing, who were recently convicted and sentenced in Sacramento for drug trafficking and money laundering. The conduct in that case took place in Stockton, the Los Angeles area, and the Dallas area, from 1999 through 2001.

SEKHARITH BE is expected to appear before U.S. Magistrate Judge Peter A. Nowinski in U.S. District Court this afternoon. SEAKOUNG NGO appeared before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Ft. Worth on Tuesday, and was ordered detained in custody and transported to Sacramento.

The indictment charges SEKHARITH BE with conspiracy to commit structuring offenses, and two counts of operating an illegal money transmitting business. SEAKHOUNG NGO is charged in the conspiracy count and in one of the illegal money transmitting business counts. All of the charges are felonies. If convicted, each defendant faces a penalty of up to five years on each count, a fine, and a term of supervised release of up to three years.

The United States Attorney's Office noted that an indictment and complaint are only accusations, and that BE and NGO are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The case is being investigated by the IRS-Criminal Investigations, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Homeland Security.

A copy of this press release is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home>, select Press Releases.

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